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# BOROUGH OF NEATH.

# ANNUAL REPORT

# OF THE

# SANITARY INSPECTOR

# FOR

# 1940.

# SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT

N E A T H

August, 1941.

To: THE MAYOR AND CORPORATION
OF THE BOROUGH OF NEATH.

Mr. Mayor, Madam and Gentlemen,

I herewith submit an interim Report, in accordance with the Welsh Board of Health's Circular 2314 (Wales), of the more important work carried out in the Sanitary Department during the year 1940.

## STAFF.

Your Sanitary staff consisted of three Sanitary Inspectors and one Clerk :-

Mr. Evan Thomas, appointed Sanitary Inspector on the 1st January,1924, and Chief Sanitary Inspector on the 14th November, 1935.
Certificated Sanitary and Meat Inspector.

Mr. E. V. John, appointed Sanitary Inspector and Inspector under the Shops Act, 1934, on the 20th May, 1935. He relinquished his duties under the Shops Act, 1934, on the 1st July, 1939.
Certificated Sanitary and Meat Inspector.

Mr. R. T. Probert, appointed Sanitary Inspector on the 1st March, 1936.
Certificated Sanitary and Meat Inspector.

Mr. T. G. Hopkins, appointed Clerk and Student Sanitary Inspector in the Department on the 5th April, 1937.
Certificated Sanitary Inspector.

## HOUSING AND PUBLIC HEALTH

The Law of Public Health and Housing was not materially altered during the year, excepting the issue of certain Circulars, which restricted activities.

## HOUSING INSPECTIONS.

| | |
|---|---|
| Number of houses inspected for defects under the Public Health and Housing Acts. ... ... ... ... | 1110 |
| Number of visits of inspection in respect of same | 2672 |
| Number of houses found not in all respects to be reasonably fit for human habitation. .. ... ... | 293 |
| Number of houses, rendered fit after service of Notices, including 92 which were in course of compliance at the end of 1939. ... ... ... ... | 377 |
| Number of houses subject to Notices at the end of 1940, the time given having not expired ... ... | 49 |

## DEFECTS FOUND DURING INSPECTION.

| | Premises affected |
|---|---|
| Drains - Defective, absence of, defectively constructed, defective fittings. | 63 |
| Water Closets - Defective fittings, broken and defective pans, structural defects, and dilapidations of closet building. | 79 |
| Water Supply - No supply, defective and insufficient supply, defective fittings. | 50 |
| Paving of Yard Areas - Defective yard paving, defective dish to gullies. | 19 |
| General House Repairs - Dampness, defective roofs, rainwater troughings and downpipes, defective internal plastering, walls, woodwork, light and ventilation, defective firegrates and chimneys, absence of, or defective food stores and coal stores. | 149 |
| Other Nuisances - Insanitary stables, pig styes and out-buildings, accumulations of manure, presence of rats and mice, smoke nuisance from domestic chimneys, house and trade refuse. | 35 |

All the defects were dealt with under Public Health Acts.

It was not considered necessary to take proceedings in cases of default in complying with any of the requirements of Notices.

During the year 470 complaints, of which 277 were written, were made in respect of various nuisances.

## NEW HOUSES.

The number of New Houses erected during the year :-

| | |
|---|---|
| (1) By the Local Authority. ... ... ... ... ... | 10 |
| (2) By other Local Authorities. ... ... ... ... | 0 |
| (3) By other bodies or persons. ... ... ... ... | 2 |
| | 12 |

## DISINFECTIONS DURING THE YEAR.

| | |
|---|---|
| After cases of Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever. ... | 112 |
| After cases of Cerebro-Spinal Fever. .... .... | 8 |
| After deaths and removals (Tuberculosis)... .... | 12 |
| After deaths from Cancer. .... .... .... .... | 4 |
| After deaths from other cases. .. .... .... .... | 9 |
| | 145 |

## DISINFESTATIONS DURING THE YEAR.

| | |
|---|---|
| Slum houses, during displacement. .... .... .... | 11 |
| Overcrowded houses, during de-crowding. ... .... | 2 |
| Council houses, reported infested. ... .... .... | 1 |
| Privately owned houses, reported infested.. .... | 22 |
| | 36 |

## FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

Inspections for purposes of provisions as to Health :-

| Premises. | Inspections. | Notices. |
|---|---|---|
| Factories, with Mechanical power. | 62 | 2 |
| Factories, without Mechanical power. | 114 | 8 |
| Other premises under the Act (including works of building and engineering construction, but not including out-workers' premises). | 13 | 0 |
| | 189 | 10 |

Defects found :-

| Particulars. | Defects. | Remedied. |
|---|---|---|
| Sanitary Conveniences (S.7) | | |
| Insufficient. | 6 | 6 |
| Unsuitable or defective. | 1 | 1 |
| Other offences. | 2 | 2 |
| | 9 | 9 |

No list of out-workers was received during the year.

## COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

The number of such premises registered for 1939 was seven, and owing to the changed definition of "Common Lodging House" as contained in the Public Health Act,1936, it was deemed necessary to consider one other such premises for registration.

| Premises | Keeper | Deputy-keeper | Accommodation for Lodgers |
|---|---|---|---|
| 4,Commercial St. | W.J.Daniel | --- | 45 |
| 16,The Parade. | Mrs.M.Powell | --- | 8 |
| 68,Water Street. | Evan Rosser | --- | 12 |
| 23,Wind Street. | Edward Flynn | --- | 45 |
| 1,Glamorgan St. | Mrs.A.Sandham | James Williams | 16 |
| 1,Cattle Street. | Mrs.A.Sandham. | William Sandham | 47 |
| 10,Cattle Street. | Nathaniel Edwards | --- | 12 |
| 5,Cattle Street. | Mrs.Agnes Bevan | --- | 18 |
| | | | 203 |

The premises, having regard to the age of the structure and situation, are kept fairly satisfactory. They leave much to be desired in the matter of decency, cleanliness and sanitation.

It will be observed that the number of beds provided is 2o3, and during inspection on a given night, only 93 were occupied. It is interesting to note that of the 93, only 15 were nightly lodgers, the other occupants being chiefly Old Age Pensioners and unemployed townspeople who have made these places their homes.

I respectfully suggest that the Sub-Committee appointed by the Council in 1939, will consider at an early date, the question of providing a Municipal Lodging House.

The Chief Constable issued 3,152 tickets of admission to the Casual Ward at Lletty Nedd during the year.

## FOOD AND DRUGS ACT AND REGULATIONS

During the year the following samples were purchased and submitted to the Public Analyst for analysis - All the samples were formally taken.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Milk | 98 | Dried Apricots | 1 |
| Butter | 4 | Beans & Pork | 1 |
| Lard | 2 | Self Raising Flour | 2 |
| Margarine | 3 | Cake Flour | 2 |
| Sausages | 15 | Beef Suet | 2 |
| Cheese | 5 | Mince Meat | 1 |
| Jams | 8 | Lemon Cheese | 1 |
| | Tripe 1 | | |
| | Total 146 | | |

Ratio of Samples to Population :-

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Milk Samples | 3.1 per 1,000 | of population. |
| Other Samples | 1.5 | -do- |
| All Samples | 4.6 | -do- |

### ADULTERATED SAMPLES

| Series Number | Article | Nature of Adulteration | Observations |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2 | Milk | 2.0% Extraneous Water. | Vendor Warned. |
| 10 | Milk | 9.5% Extraneous Water. | Proceedings against Vendor £1 & costs. |
| 31 | Milk | 2.4% Extraneous Water. | Vendor Warned. |
| 32 | Milk | 3.6% Extraneous Water. | Vendor Warned. |
| 45 | Milk | 1.7% Extraneous Water. | Vendor Warned. |
| 46 | Milk | 2.0% Extraneous Water. | Vendor Warned. |
| 52 | Milk | 5.0% Deficient in Fat. | Proceedings against Vendor £2 & costs. |
| 80 | Milk | 2.9% Deficient in Fat. | Vendor Warned. |
| 93 | Milk | 1.3% Deficient in Fat. | Vendor Warned. |
| 124 | Milk | 2.0% Extraneous Water. | Vendor Warned. |
| 134 | Milk | 2.0% Extraneous Water. | Vendor Warndd. |
| 135 | Milk | 1.4% Extraneous Water. | Vendor Warned. |
| 138 | Milk | 2.3% Extraneous Water. | Vendor Warned. |
| 141 | Milk | 1.7% Extraneous Water. | Vendor Warned. |

The following is a summary of Samples purchased, the number adulterated and the number of cases in which proceedings were taken against the sellers during the year (1940) :-

| Nature of Samples | Number taken | Number adulterated | Percentage adulterated | Cases -- Proceedings taken |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Milk | 98 | 14 | 14.28 | 2 |
| Other Foods | 48 | Nil | - | Nil |

This indicates a very high percentage of adulterated samples of milk, although in most cases the adulteration was slight.

## THE PUBLIC HEALTH (PRESERVATIVES ETC. IN FOOD) REGULATIONS 1925/1940.

The Public Analyst certified that of the 146 samples of Foods analysed by him during the year, 4 contained preservative, as follows :-

| Series Number | Food | Preservative | Parts per million Present | Parts per million Permissible |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 19 | Sausages | Sulphur dioxide | 262 | 450 |
| 25 | Sausages | -do- | 224 | 450 |
| 106 | Raspberry & Goose-berry jam | -do- | 25.6 | 40 |
| 110 | Dried Apricots | -do- | 83.2 | 2000 |

The Sausages were declared as containing preservative and in the other two cases it was not compulsory to make such a declaration.

Of the 146 foods examined, no case was discovered of a prohibited colouring matter having been used.

The principal regulations prescribe that certain preservatives, i.e. Sulphur dioxide and Benzoic acid, may be used in the preparation of stated foods and that in specified cases only, is it necessary to make a declaration to that effect. During 1940, amendment provisional regulations were issued permitting the addition of sodium or potassium nitrite and boric acid to bacon and ham, and the addition of boric acid to margarine.

## REGISTERED BUTTER FACTORIES

| Date of Registration | Situation of Factory | Occupier of Premises |
|---|---|---|
| 8th Febry,1924 | Quay Road, Neath | Walter E.Chappell |
| 26th Janry,1937 | 15a,Orchard St,Neath | William Elliott |
| 27th Janry,1937 | 11, Queen Street, Back Rd, Neath. | Corner House Dairy & Cafe, Ltd., |

## ARTIFICIAL CREAM

There are no premises registered within the Borough for the manufacture of artificial cream, such articles being sold only as received in unopened receptacles.

## CONDENSED AND DRIED MILK REGULATIONS,1923/1927

In no case, during routine inspections of stocks, deposited or exposed for sale, was the absence of, or incorrect declaration of, labelling detected. It was noticed, towards the end of the year, that stocks had diminished greatly and that what was available, was not exposed in the usual manner for sale.

## MERCHANDISE MARKS ACT, 1926

The "Orders" as to marking of certain articles, made under this Act, were generally well observed. The provisions of the Order made under the Act, in regard to the marking of imported butter, were over-ruled by the Butter (Maximum Prices) Order,1940, which required it to be marked, on retail, as "National Butter".

## MILK "SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS"

The following Licences for the retail of Graded Milks within the Borough were in operation during the year :-

| Name. | Address. | Designation. | Licence. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Wm. Thomas & Son. | Gnoll View Dairy Neath. | Pasteruised. | Establishment. |
| B. Ferry & Neath Co-operative Society Ltd. | 123, Neath Rd, Briton Ferry. | " | " |
| " | " | T.T. Milk. | " |
| Richards Bros. | Holland St, Port Talbot. | Pasteurised. | Supplementary. |
| " | " | T.T. Milk. | " |
| G.J. Edwards. | 26, Winifred Rd, Skewen. | Pasteurised. | " |
| " | " | T.T. Milk. | " |
| Meadowland Milk Ltd. | Manselton, Swansea. | Pasteurised. | " |

Walter Price, Longford Farm, Neath, a retailer of T.T. Milk in the Borough, is exempted from local licensing.

## Milk and Dairies.

The number of farms at which milk was produced in the Borough was 20, with an average of 175 cows in milk, as compared with 20 producers and an average of 205 cows in milk for 1939. A reduction in numbers is to be expected, having regard to the shortage of imported feeding-stuffs and to the necessity of slaughtering off the thousands of inferior cattle and cows which are incapable of showing an adequate return for their keep.

The period limewashing was somewhat delayed, the excuses made were (1) continued cold weather resulting in animals being kept indoors up to the month of May (2) priority work such as potato planting and cereal sowing, (3) late harvesting and (4) the shortage of suitable assistance.

At the commencement of the year 102 retailers were registered for the sale of milk in the Borough. During the year 7 were removed from, chiefly internees, and 3 added to, the register, so that the end of the year 98 were in business.

The Cowsheds, dairies and milkshops were periodically visited and were generally found in a satisfactory condition.

## INSPECTION OF DAIRY CATTLE

The inspection of dairy cattle was carried out in a routine manner by the State Veterinary Service. During the year, 7 cows from local dairies were destroyed.

The greater bulk of the milk produced at these dairies was retailed within your area. It is the practice of the department to immediately notify the Divisional Veterinary Inspector at Bridgend of all cases of tuberculous dairy cattle and calves discovered during meat inspection at the Borough Slaughterhouse. Notifications for 1940 were in respect of 31 cows, 3 calves and 4 other cattle.

## EXAMINATION OF MILK FOR TUBERCLE BACILLI

Four samples of bulk milk, produced at local farms the milk from which is retailed in the Borough, were submitted during the year to the Public Health Laboratory for examination for Tubercle Bacilli :-

| Date | Name & Address of Producer | Cows in Milk | Tubercle Bacilli |
|---|---|---|---|
| 28/2/40 | Mrs.M.Stephens,Preswylfa Farm. | 15 | Absent |
| " | T. Hunkin, Glannant Farm. | 10 | " |
| " | Mrs.S.Morgan, Cwrt Sart Farm. | 11 | " |
| " | A. Thomas, Cefndon Farm. | 22 | " |

In addition a number of samples were collected by the officers of the State Veterinary Service in connection with The Tuberculosis Order, 1938.

## BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF MILK

During the year 89 samples of milk were collected and submitted for bacteriological examination to the Cardiff and County Public Health Laboratory, as follows :-

| Description | Number Submitted | Number Satisfactory | Number Unsatisfactory |
|---|---|---|---|
| Ordinary Milk | 57 | 42 | 15 |
| Pasteurised Milk | 27 | 25 | 2 |
| Tuberculin Tested | 5 | 4 | 1 |
| | 89 | 71 | 18 |

The producers of the unsatisfactory samples were all interviewed and instructed on the proper methods of production. In the cases of the unsatisfactory graded milks, the matter was taken up with the Licensing Authorities. The results are fairly satisfactory, having regard to the allegation that conditions imposed by the "black out" and "air-raids" interfere with clean milk production. A copy of the Certificate issued by the Bacteriologist was sent to the person from whom the milk was collected, and where collected at hospitals, a report was sent to the Medical Superintendent, in addition.

## WATER SUPPLIES

On the instruction of the Medical Officer of Health 91 samples of water were collected and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for bacteriological examination during the year. Of these, 80 were from dwelling-houses, hospitals, schools and public buildings on the Town supplies, 7 from local springs and wells at farms and cottages, 3 from the Gnoll Public Swimming Pool and one from the Neath Canal. Copies of all Certificates received in respect of the same were sent to the Water Engineer.

## MEAT INSPECTION

The control of fatstock and meat commenced on the 15th January,1940, the Ministry of Food became, apart from some few exceptions, the sole purchaser of fatstock for slaughter for human consumption.

All animals in the controlled area, that is, Neath Borough and Neath Rural District, and intended for human food, were from that date slaughtered in your Public Abbatoir. The change over resulted in slaughtering being done at irregular hours, the chief reason being, transport difficulties, but I am pleased to report that a hundred-per-cent meat inspection was maintained throughout the year. The department records all animals slaughtered, carcases or parts of carcases condemned, disease classification, and particulars of disposal of such condemnations.

The old Borough had a Public Slaughterhouse to which was added, by virtue of the Borough Extension in 1922, three Private Slaughterhouses, viz. Cae-Rhys-Ddu and Cefn-Cringallt, situated at Cimla, and the Briton Ferry Co-operative society (previously owned by Mr. Sam Davies, Butcher) at Kennel Row, Briton Ferry. Those at Cimla were registered by the Neath Rural District Council and that at Kennel Row by the then Briton Ferry Urban District Council. The Cae-Rhys-Ddu and Cefn-Cringallt Private Slaughterhouses, previously occupied by Mr. Harry Hunkin and Mr. Thomas Hunkin, respectively, are not now in use. Under the provisions of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, Section 57, private slaughterhouses and their occupiers have now to be licensed for a period not exceeding thirteen months, as may be fixed by the Local Authority, but may be renewed by them for a period not exceeding thirteen months at any one time. An application was received from the Briton Ferry and Neath Co-operative Society Ltd, for the licensing of their premises at Kennel Row, Briton Ferry as a Slaughterhouse. The premises are in all respects suitable and the applicants are a proper body of persons to keep such a place, and the Council decided to grant the application for a period of 12 months from the 1st January, 1940. In consequence of the operation of Meat Control, the slaughterhouse was in use from 1st to 14th January only, and has since been restricted to a reserve premises. A notice, to comply with the provisions of Section 59 of the Food and Drugs Act,1938, with the words "Licensed Slaughterhouse", is displayed on the building.

The management of the Public Slaughterhouse, since 15th January 1940, is by a representative of the Ministry of Food. All animals slaughtered on these premises are stunned by means of mechanically operated instruments - Calves, Sheep and Pigs by the use of Simpsons Electric Stunners, and Cattle with the "Cash Captive Bolt Pistol".

There are 16 persons licensed as Slaughtermen in the Borough.

I am pleased to report that the provisions of the Slaughter of Animals Act,1933 with regard to the use of mechanically operated instruments on all food animals and slaughtering by licensed persons only, are strictly obeyed in the Borough, although it was rumoured that in the case of Regional Slaughterhouses the provisions of this Act would not be enforced.

A Table indicating the number of animals slaughtered at the Borough Slaughterhouse during 1940, for the periods 1st - 14th January and 15th January - 31st December, is given below :-

| Period | Slaughterhouse | Cattle | Calves | Sheep | Pigs | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Jan 1st-14th. | Co-operative | 42 | 25 | 291 | 92 | 450 |
| | Borough | 90 | 13 | 554 | 164 | 821 |
| | | 132 | 38 | 845 | 256 | 1271 |
| Jan 15th-Dec 31st. | Borough | 2611 | 1296 | 27066 | 2781 | 33754 |
| | | 2743 | 1334 | 27911 | 3037 | 35025 |

I have purposely divided the record of condemned meat into two sections, i.e. that which was condemned at the Borough Slaughterhouse and the Briton Ferry Co-operative Slaughterhouse between 1st January and 14th January, being the property of private wholesalers and retailers, and that condemned at the Borough Slaughterhouse between the 15th January and 31st December and being the property of the Ministry of Food.

(1) At the Borough Slaughterhouse and the Briton Ferry Co-operative Slaughterhouse. Period 1st Jan - 14th Jan,1940.

| Cattle. | Pigs. | Sheep. |
|---|---|---|
| 3 Heads | 12 Heads | 1 Carcase |
| 10 Livers | 3 Livers | 1 Head |
| 4 Lungs | 6 Lungs | 15 Livers |
| 2 Mesenteries | 2 Hearts | 8 Lungs |
| | 4 Spleens | 6 Hearts |
| | 4 Stomachs | |
| | 4 Intestines | |

All were subject to voluntary surrender and were destroyed by burning at the Slaughterhouse Gas Destructor, in accordance with practice.

(2) At the Borough Slaughterhouse. Period 15th January-31st December, 1940.

| Calves | Sheep | Pigs |
|---|---|---|
| 6 Carcases | 24 Carcases | 60 Carcases |
| 6 Heads | 4 Forequarters | 124 Heads |
| 14 Livers | 1 Hindquarter | 237 Livers |
| 18 Lungs | 4 Loins | 256 Lungs |
| 6 Hearts | 1 Leg | 137 Hearts |
| 12 Kidneys | 28 Heads | 122 Kidneys |
| 6 Spleens | 2733 Livers | 60 Spleens |
| 6 Mesenteries | 1313 Lungs | 14 Stomachs |
| 6 Stomachs | 84 Hearts | 14 Intestines |
| 6 Intestines | 54 Kidneys | 60 Omentums |
| 6 Omentums | 24 Spleens | 6 lbs Pork |
| | 24 Stomachs | |
| | 24 Intestines | |

Cattle

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 64 Stomachs | 37 Carcases | 428 Lungs |
| 35 Intestines | 10 Forequarters | 58 Hearts |
| 37 Omentums | 170 Heads | 87 Kidneys |
| 63 Skirts | 874 Livers | 59 Spleens |
| 36 lbs. Beef | | 92 Mesenteries |

The amount of Beef condemned at the Borough Slaughterhouse was unusually high, being principally affected with Tuberculosis, and is accounted for by the large number of Cows slaughtered during the year by the Ministry of Food. Of the 2,611 cattle slaughtered during the "Control Period", i.e. 15th January - 31st December, 686 were Cows, or over 26 per cent, whereas the average number of Cows killed at the Borough Slaughterhouse, pre-control, was 2 per cent. The ratio with regard to the number of bulls slaughtered is almost as pronounced as that stated for cows. Many of these animals were in poor condition and in some cases obviously suffering from febrile disorders, and the attention of the Ministry of Food was, on several occasions, directed to the matter. The lowering of the standard of meat offered for sale in the Borough was obvious, Neath having enjoyed a reputation for the sale of high-grade meat, and the change was noticed by all.

I have previously reported that when a carcase of beef or of veal is condemned as being tubercular, every endeavour is made to trace, through the "Mart" records, the owner, so that the information can be passed on to the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Health Division. A difficulty has now arisen in doing this, as since "Control", calves, through the agency of dealers pass from one mart to another, with the result that the breeder often cannot be traced, the tab on the hide at the Slaughterhouse indicating the last sale only to the Ministry of Food. I have written to the Ministry of Agriculture suggesting that the issue of an additional Order to "The Movement of Animals Orders" as would require the compulsory recording in all movements of the Mart identification, would overcome the difficulty.

Of the six carcases of veal condemned, two were cases of Congenital Tuberculosis, and as a result of the action taken by me it was possible to trace both dams, one at Pontardawe and one in Neath Rural Area. These were brought in for slaughter at the Borough Slaughterhouse, and were found on inspection to be extensively affected with Generalised Tuberculosis, including udder infection.

The distribution of meat is arranged by the Ministry of Food, through Wholesale Meat Supply Associations, to the retail trade. In order to facilitate matters, the Borough Slaughterhouse is a receiving and distributing centre, and during the year a large amount of meat, both home killed and imported, was received for distribution. This meat was examined in addition to that above mentioned, and it was necessary to condemn several parts of carcases and offal, included in same. In one instance, the whole consignment of 51 carcases of pork, from the South of England, which had been loaded warm in a sealed unventilated container on rail, had to be condemned on arrival as being in a state of decomposition. These are included as part of the 60 condemned carcases, mentioned in the table.

A number of animals were slaughtered as (1) Casualties through injuries and (2) injured by Enemy Action during two incidents.

In accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Food, the condemned meat was handed to the Disposal Contractors for purposes other than food.

The Livestock (Restriction on Slaughtering) No.2 Order, 1940, made by the Minister of Food, came into operation on the 1st December 1940, and for your information, the provisions of this Order, requiring the treatment of all condemned meat by means of a distinctive colouring agent, were strictly observed from that date.

The Ministry of Health in Circular 2218. 3rd December, 1940 requested officers of local authorities when making out certificates of condemnation of meat and offals to specifically state the actual cause of condemnation. I am pleased to state that this has been the practice of your department from the commencement of "control".

I have to report that under the heading "Individual Self Suppliers of Meat", 19 pigs were slaughtered, on permit, by local farmers and cottagers. In every case notice of slaughter was received and all the carcases were inspected, irrespective whether they were slaughtered at the Slaughterhouse or at home.

## CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED

| | Cattle excluding Cows | Cows | Calves | Sheep & Lambs | Pigs | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Number killed | 2053 | 690 | 1334 | 27911 | 3037 | 35025 |
| Number inspected | 2053 | 690 | 1334 | 27911 | 3037 | 35025 |
| ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS | | | | | | |
| Whole carcases condemned. | 1 | 3 | 4 | 24 | 2 | |
| Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned. | 552 | 278 | 7 | 2974 | 211 | |
| Percentage of Number affected with disease other than Tuberculosis. | 26.9 | 40.7 | .82 | 10.7 | 7.0 | |

| | Cattle excluding Cows | Cows | Calves | Sheep & Lambs | Pigs |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| TUBERCULOSIS ONLY | | | | | |
| Whole carcases condemned. | 7 | 26 | 2 | 0 | 7 |
| Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned. | 199 | 92 | 1 | 0 | 161 |
| Percentage of Number inspected affected with Tuberculosis. | 10.0 | 17.1 | .22 | 0 | 5.6 |

## BUTCHERS SHOPS

The 54 Butcher shops in the Borough, a reduction of three as compared with 1939, have been regularly visited. For purposes of distribution as a result of "Meat Control", the shops have been divided into three groups, viz. Town, Market and Briton Ferry. The object of these visits was :-

(1) To investigate any possible illicit trading, which would result in un-examined meat being offered for sale.

(2) To re-inspect meat as to soundness.

(3) To examine processes and foodstuffs used in the manufacture of smalls.

(4) To inspect imported meat exposed for sale.

(5) To note observance of the Meat Regulations,1924.

(6) To ascertain whether the various Orders made under the Merchandise Marks Act, 1926, governing the compulsory marking of all imported poultry, bacon, ham and meat were being observed.
(N.B. Proper and correct marking, under present-day methods of distribution, present a difficulty, and it were better that the "Country of Origin" should be provisionally substituted by the former method, that of "Imported", which would be applicable in general to foreign or empire imports).

(7) To note observance of the Food and Drugs Act,1938 by the 35 butchers whose premises are registered for the preparation or manufacture of sausages or potted, pickled or preserved food intended for sale, and to ascertain if unregistered premises are being used for this purpose.

During inspection the undermentioned were condemned owing to unsoundness, etc., and were handed over to the Disposal Contractors :-

| | |
|---|---|
| 39 lbs Imported Beef. | 59 Imported Chickens. |
| 782 lbs Home-killed Beef. | 10 lbs Imported Sheep Livers. |
| 28 lbs Home-killed Veal. | 25 Tripes. |

It will be observed that the amount of home-killed beef condemned owing to decomposition and internal bruising was unduly large. The Ministry of Food's attention was drawn to this, as in my opinion the decomposition was due to several factors, primarily through unorthodox methods of slaughter, such as improper bleeding, too liberal a use of water when dressing, insufficient fasting prior to slaughter, and mass slaughter on specified days, with lack of consideration of weather conditions. It appears to me that the need of saving on transport by less frequent distribution was considered to be of great importance than regard for the keeping qualities of meat.

The increased amount of bruised beef, quite common since "control", is probably due to long and delayed train journeys and consequent shunting of wagons and bumping of animals during transit, together with insufficient rest and healing time prior to slaughter.

I would state that there was an evident improvement in the conduct of the business following the complaints.

## MEAT REGULATIONS,1924

I am pleased to report that the Regulations are well observed. All shops selling meat in the Borough observe the clauses as to contamination, the premises are well ventilated and in no case are the windows permitted to be left open when meat is exposed. There are no stalls outside the closed market, wherefrom meat is offered for sale. Lorries, vans and baskets used in the transport and delivery of meat are carefully watched and strictly controlled. It became necessary to draw the attention of the haulage contractors, delivering meat to the various groups of butchers,regarding the unsatisfactory covering of meat against contamination.

## Other Premises Where Food is Sold Stored or Prepared for Sale.

(1) Bakehouses .-

The number of Bakehouses in occupation remained at 24, and these were regularly visited to ensure that the premises were being maintained in a satisfactory state. Generally on visitation the bakehouses were found to have been recently limewashed or that steps were taken for cleansing to be carried out at an early date; with the result that it was necessary to serve but two notices requesting the occupier to carry out the requirements of Section 13 of the Food & Drugs Act, 1938.

(2) Aerated Water Works .-

The four factories producing soft drinks and vinegar were periodically visited. The factories were kept fairly satisfactory and the Sanitary Conveniences provided for the staffs were kept in good condition. All waters used in the production of drinks etc. are obtained from the Town Supply.

(3) Ice-Cream Shops .-

The number of premises registered for the manufacture and sale of Ice-cream under the Food and Drugs Act,1938 is 50. Of these 32 are in respect of both manufacture and sale, and 18 in respect of sale only. Visits of inspection were made as often as possible while the season was in progress.

Fourteen samples of Ice-cream manufactured within the Borough were taken in the year and were submitted for Bacteriological analysis; two of such samples being examined primarily to ascertain if diptheria bacilli were present, but negative results were obtained. Of the fourteen samples, six were certified as being bacteriologically satisfactory; five as moderately satisfactory; and three as being unsatisfactory.

As with samples of Milk taken in the Borough, in every case where Ice-cream was found on examination not to be of a proper standard, investigation was made to find the cause of the uncleanliness and an effort was made to spur both manufacturer and retailer to produce a more hygienic article.

(3) Ice-Cream Shops (Cont.).-

| Sample Number | Total Organisms | Bacillus Coli Content | Bacteriologists Remarks |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 110,000 | plus 1 c.c. | Satisfactory. |
| 2 | 170,000 | plus 1/10 c.c. | -do- |
| 3 | 240,000 | minus 1 c.c. | -do- |
| 4 | 21,000 | plus 1/10 c.c. | -do- |
| 5 | 1,440,000 | plus 1/1000 c.c. | Unsatisfactory. |
| 6 | 640,000 | minus 1 c.c. | Satisfactory. |
| 7 | 3,200,000 | minus 1 c.c. | Unsatisfactory. |
| 8 | 370,000 | plus 1/100 c.c. | Moderately satisfactory. |
| 9 | 10,000,000 | plus 1/100 c.c. | Unsatisfactory. |
| 10 | 12,000 | plus 1/10 c.c. | Satisfactory. |
| 11 | 430,000 | plus 1/10 c.c. | Moderately satisfactory. |
| 12 | 240,000 | plus 1/10 c.c. | Moderately satisfactory. |
| 13 | 220,000 | plus 1/10 c.c. | Moderately satisfactory. |
| 14 | 360,000 | plus 1/10 c.c. | Moderately satisfactory. |

(4) Fish Frying Businesses .-

The Fried Fish Shops in the Town were registered under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act,1938, in consequence of the definition contained within the Act. Thirty one shops were originally inspected but twenty-seven only were registered; the remainder being either unsuitable or having given up trading through business difficulties.

Inspection of the premises was carried out as far as practicable throughout the year. Generally, it may be stated that the shops are kept satisfactory, although by reason of their age and type, re-decoration is continually required in some cases in respect of that part of the premises used for the preparation and cleansing of potatoes. Constant supervision is required and the establishment of a more or less uniform type of structure must be aimed at. Cleanliness can be said to be satisfactory.

(5) Fish Shops and Hawkers .-

There are few shops in the Borough used exclusively for the sale of Fish; but small quantities are retailed from such places as Green grocery shops and fish-frying premises, as well as by persons covering the streets by cart and van. Inspections were made from time to time of such premises and vehicles throughout the year and they were found to be conducted at all times in a satisfactory manner. No complaints from the public were received during the year of nuisance caused by such commodity.

Vegetables, fruit and rabbits retailed in addition by the traders were also kept under constant supervision.

(6) Hotels, Restaurants and Tea Rooms .-

These premises were regularly visited and generally were kept in a satisfactory manner. Attention was called, in some instances, to the absence of properly closed receptacles for the storage of waste and to the accumulation of refuse in yards. The sanitary accommodation and washing facilities, both for the use of the staffs and customers, were found in good order.

(7) General Provision Shops and Stores .-

A general inspection was carried out of provision shops, stores and warehouses. Few changes were noticed in the number of shops and stores used for the sale of groceries and general provisions, and the conduct of the businesses was generally satisfactory. Eleven premises were registered under Section 14, Food & Drugs Act, 1938, on which was prepared preserved food, i.e. boiled hams, roast pork, roast beef, meat pies and faggots, intended for sale. It is to be noted that some of the premises do not quite satisfy the standard for such a purpose, although in every case the premises were very clean. On the other hand it is going to be difficult to bring them up to standard having regard to the shortage of material, occasioned by the war. Further, it is possible that some of the occupiers may be put out of business as a result of rationed ingredients, a course which would not justify, at the moment, a large outlay of capital expenditure.

It was necessary to condemn the following foods:-

| | |
|---|---|
| 6 lb. tin ox tongue. | 24 lbs sausages. |
| 72 fish cakes. | 24 lbs cheese. |
| 186 tins assorted foods. | 11 lbs cooked ham. |
| 35 lbs pork brawn. | 32 lb jellied veal. |
| 33 lbs kippers. | 263 lbs bacon and ham. |
| 4 lbs salmon cream. | 300 eggs. |
| 1 tin corned beef. | 112 lbs potatoes. |

The shopkeepers throughout the Borough have been specially requested to immediately notify the department of any food on their premises that may be in anyway suspicious. Certificates of condemnation are granted and these are helpful in replenishing losses as the result of such action.

## GENERAL INSPECTIONS

(1) Shops Act :

The arrangements for the health and comfort of shop workers were generally satisfactorily maintained. Several Notices were complied with in respect of defective fittings to water closets and in one instance, of an unsuitable sanitary convenience. The provisions of Section 10 of the Shops Act, 1934, are rigidly enforced by the Sanitary Inspector and by the Council's Shops Inspector. It has been decided by the Council that the use of the sanitary conveniences in the General Market be restricted to the stall-holders and their assistants, a rest room where meals may be taken and washing facilities available, has also been provided thereat.

(2) Barbers' and Hairdressers' Shops :

The inspection of these premises, introduced by the Department in 1937, was continued as far as practicable during the year. It was found that the general standard of cleanliness had been well maintained and improved, the inspection of past years having undoubtedly acted as a stimulus. The trade generally is to be complimented upon the hygienic standard attained, having regard to difficulties occasioned by depleted staffs.

(3) Offensive Trades :

Consent to the extension of the period for carrying on an Offensive Trade under the provisions of Section 107 Public Health Act, 1936, was given in the following :-

| Date | Trade | Address | Owner | Period |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1/6/40 | Rag & Bone Dealer | The Latt, James St., Neath. | H.L.Prowse. | 12 months. |
| " | -do- | 4, Bankside, Neath. | D.J.Price. | " |
| " | -do- | Wernpistyll Rd, Briton Ferry. | Elias Evans. | " |
| " | Gut Scraper | Public Abattoir, Eastland Road, Neath. | W.J.Gabriel. | " |

The general conduct of these businesses was satisfactory, especially when it is recognised that their difficult and offensive nature are such, that nuisances may arise continuously. It is also to be noted that "Nation Salvage" has increased their activities considerably.

(4) Tents, Vans, Sheds, Etc. :

In this connection I am glad to report that the Borough is singularly free of this type of habitation. Owing to hostilities none of the Fairs were held during the year, so that there was no occasion to inspect the areas allocated to travelling showmen. There was also little trouble caused by hawkers, gypsies and others passing through the district, and I have to record that no complaint was received of any nuisance or annoyance due to them, throughout the year.

(5) Sanitary Accommodation of Cinemas, Etc. :

In accordance with Circular 120 of the Ministry of Health and the Order of the Home Office , I have made periodical inspection of the Cinemas and Halls in the Borough.

There are five Cinemas, namely Empire, Gnoll Hall, Windsor, Palace Kinema and Lodge Kinema, the first three being situated in Neath and the remaining two in the Briton Ferry, and the seating accommodation is for 5,362 persons.

The Empire, Windsor and Lodge Cinemas were satisfactory in all respects, and always properly maintained.

The Gnoll Hall was found in 1940, as a result of improvements carried out in 1939, to be always clean and satisfactory. The owners also agreed to carry out certain work of reconstruction and submitted a plan to that effect to the Town Council, which was approved by them. This work has not been done and it is not anticipated that it will be carried out under present-day difficulties.

The Palace Kinema, as previously reported, was entirely unsatisfactory for the purpose for which it is licensed. It is the intention of the owners to close the premises and to transfer the Licence to the Public Hall, which would be altered in accordance with a plan already submitted to, and approved by the Town Council. The position to-day is similar to that indicated in 1939, with the exception that a new water service has been provided and that the floor coverings have been renewed. It is not anticipated that the major alterations to the Public Hall, which would bring about the transfer of the licence can be carried out under the present circumstances.

Periodical visits were made to all Public Halls and Public Billiard Halls and all are provided with suitable sanitary accommodation.

(6) Sanitary Accommodation of Schools:

Following up the request of the Medical Officer of Health in 1938, when a detailed report on the condition of the Sanitary Conveniences and Washing Facilities of the Schools was presented to him, inspection has been continued and visits made from time to time.

Sanitary Accommodation of Schools : (Cont.).

The defects observed have in the case of the Elementary Schools, been reported to the Borough Engineer for his attention, and in the case of the Private Schools, the occupiers and owners have been written to.

An investigation was made at one of the Private Schools of alleged overcrowding of classrooms, due possibly to the fact that for several months children under five years were barred from attending the Council Schools at a time when enemy air raids were frequent.

It was found that the complaint had been exaggerated, although the attendance had increased, and no action was considered necessary.

(7) Licensed Premises :

An inspection of all licensed premises within the Borough was completed during the year with the view of determining alterations of premises, changes of licensees, and the adequacy and cleanliness of sanitary accommodation for male and female customers. There were 67 public houses and licensed hotels, together with 12 registered clubs. Several of the premises have been subjected to alterations and improvements, and it was expected that other premises would also have been dealt with. A marked improvement was observed in the standard of the sanitary arrangements during recent years, showing the enlightened policy of owners to meet present-day demands. At 17 of the premises separate sanitary conveniences for women were not provided, and the existing arrangements were to permit the use of the licensee's private accommodation. All the premises were kept clean, signifying daily attention, although the necessity of a "black-out" has interfered greatly with proper ventilation of the conveniences during business in the hours of darkness and it was observed that a too liberal use of disinfectants was taking place, an attempt at camourflaging one offensive smell by substituting another.

The 12 registered clubs and institutes claimed to have maintained and some to have improved their membership. Most of these premises have substantial sanitary accommodation and others are taking steps to modernise the structures and fittings. The premises were kept clean, the stewards giving daily attention to cleanliness and supervision, but here again the necessity of providing a complete "black-out" and its effect upon proper ventilation was evident.

(8) Rats and Mice Destruction Act, 1919 :-

A number of complaints were received from various parts of the Borough of rat infestation in houses, shops, warehouses, vacant buildings and on open spaces. Infestation was sporadic, although it was evident that a more serious view was being taken of the menace. Suspected areas were regularly visited, complaints were investigated and occupiers and owners were advised on methods to be employed for eradication. Particular attention was given to Refuse tips and Slaughterhouse buildings and during visits of inspection to farms, the occupiers were reminded of the seriousness of the matter. Baiting was by means of Rodine, Arnolds', Lawes' and Klearwell products. The refuse tips, sewers, and slaughterhouse buildings were regularly baited and upwards of 5,000 baits were laid during the year. A Clayton machine, Sulphur, was occasionaly used and was given out on loan to large establishments. It is to be anticipated that rat infestation will materially increase as a result of the storage of foodstuffs, for salvage, in improper receptacles, proper bins being expensive and almost unobtainable.

(9) Rent and Mortgage Interest Restriction Acts, 1920/1939 :

No application was received during the year for a certificate of the Sanitary Authority of the state of repair of any dwelling house situate in the Borough.

## HOUSING

(1) Houses unfit for Human Habitation :

No action was taken under Section 9, 11, or 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.

The "Undertakings' accepted by the Council in respect of the following dwellings have been duly complied with :

2 & 3, Brickyard Cottages.
69, Water Street.
42, Neath Road.
58A, Neath Road.
8, Waters Court.
13, Russell Street.
1 & 2, Kirkhouse Court.
34A, Ritson Street.
55A, Ritson Street.
27, Briton Ferry Road.
Westernmoor Farm Cottage.
Rock Cottage, Penrhiwtyn.

The accepted "Undertakings" in respect of the following dwellings are, as yet, not complied with :

1,2,3, & 4, Jonah Court.
141 & 143, Neath Road.
19A, Lowther Street.
35A, Lowther Street.
11A, Hunter Street.
119A, London Road.

No dwelling-house was voluntarily closed or demolished during the year.

(2) Slum Clearance :

I beg to report upon the progress made under your Slum Clearance Programmes :

In response to a request contained in the Ministry of Health's Circular 133, dated the 6th April,1933, the Council adopted a provisional programme of Slum Clearance spread over a period of five years, as follows :-

| Areas | Houses | Families | Persons |
|---|---|---|---|
| 19. | 241. | 277. | 1,167. |

It is here to be noted that the Council has from time to time extended this provisional programme by the inclusion of other areas, and further extensions are to be anticipated. To these areas must also be added the unfit individual houses, parts of houses and underground or cellar dwellings.

The following is a Table of Comparison between the original provisional programme and the position in relation to Slum Clearance at the end of 1939 :-

| | Areas. | Houses Involved. | Families. | Persons. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Provisional Programme | 19 | 241 | 277 | 1,167 |
| Slum Clearance Programme | 37 | 423 | 459 | 1,917 |

## SLUM CLEARANCE SCHEME, 1934.
## or
## First Year's Programme.

| Areas. | Houses affected. | Families. | Houses provided. |
|---|---|---|---|
| 9 | 58 | 57 | 57 |

| Persons displaced. | Houses demolished. | Houses Undertakings accepted. |
|---|---|---|
| 215 | 51 | 7 |

The owner of the seven houses here referred to, made an application for their conversion into stores to be used in connection with an adjoining Engineering Works, and offered to give an Undertaking not to again use them as dwellings. The Ministry of Health modified the Clearance Order accordingly and directed that such an Undertaking be accepted. The houses have been vacant since the 27th May, 1935, and although they are boarded up, they remain and eyesore and are seriously detrimental to the amenities of the district. I have made repeated application to the new owners to convert the buildings into stores, as requested by them, but in the absence of an agreed time limit it is difficult of enforcement.

No provision was made for six families of one person. The 57 families displaced were provided for on the three Sites, as follows :-

| | Families. | Two Bedroom. | Three Bedroom. | Four Bedroom. | Total. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Pencaerau | 17 | 11 | 6 | Nil. | 17 |
| Brynhyfryd | 18 | 12 | 4 | 2 | 18 |
| Llantwit | 22 | 12 | 6 | 4 | 22 |
| | 57 | 35 | 16 | 6 | 57 |

## SLUM CLEARANCE SCHEME, 1935.
or
## Second Year's Programme.

| Areas. | Houses affected. | Families. | Persons. | Houses provided. | Flats provided. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 5 | 82 | 82 | 350 | 78 | 4 |

Provision was made for four families of one person. The 82 families displaced were provided for on one site, as follows :-

| Site. | Families. | Two Bedroom. | Three Bedroom. | Four Bedroom. | Flats. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Pencaerau | 82 | 41 | 27 | 10 | 4 |

Total.

82

## SLUM CLEARANCE SCHEME, 1936.
or
## Third Year's Programme.

| Areas. | Houses affected. | Families. | Persons. | New houses required. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 5 | 56 | 65 | 304 | 65 |

## SUMMARY OF 1936 PROGRAMME.

| | Houses. | Families. | Persons. | Families of one Person. | New houses required. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Clearance Areas. | 56 | 65 | 304 | 1 | 65 |
| Cellar Dwellings. | 9 | 9 | 34 | 1 | 9 |
| Individual Unfit Houses. | 29 | 32 | 136 | 0 | 32 |
| | 94 | 106 | 474 | 2 | 106 |

Provision was made for the two families of one person. The requirement of two flats was increased to four flats to complete the block, with a corresponding decrease in the number of houses. The 106 families were provided for on the three sites, as follows :-

| Site. | Two Bedroom. | Three Bedroom. | Four Bedroom. | Flats. | Total. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Brynhyfryd | 18 | 17 | 6 | 0 | 41 |
| Pencaerau | 4 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 8 |
| Llantwit | 34 | 15 | 8 | 0 | 57 |
| | 56 | 32 | 14 | 4 | 106 |

There were originally 42 Underground or cellar dwellings, 35 of which were situated in Penydre, and 7 in the Green. I am pleased to report that none of these to-day constitute separate dwellings, those in the Green having been demolished as part of a Clearance Area and of those in Penydre, 27 are added as extra accommodation, other than for sleeping, to the houses above, and the remaining 8 are boarded up, the owners having not yet availed themselves of such an arrangement as indicated.

## SLUM CLEARANCE SCHEME, 1937.
## or
## Fourth Year's Programme.

| Areas. | Houses affected. | Families. | Persons. | New houses required. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 12 | 110 | 123 | 495 | 123 |

## SUMMARY OF 1937 PROGRAMME.

| | Houses. | Families. | Persons. | Families of one Person. | New houses required. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Clearance Areas. | 110 | 123 | 495 | 3 | 123 |
| Individual Unfit Houses. | 17 | 19 | 77 | 1 | 19 |
| | 127 | 142 | 572 | 4 | 142 |

Provision is being made for 4 families of 1 person.

It was only possible, owing to land difficulties, to submit a building programme for 140 houses, and it may be necessary to include the two left over, in the next building programme.

The 140 families referred to in the 1937 Programme are to be provided for in the Gas Works, Brynhyfryd and Westernmoor Sites, as follows :-

| Sites. | Two Bedroom. | Three Bedroom. | Four Bedroom. | Flats. | Total. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Gas Works. | 14 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 18 |
| Brynhyfryd No.1. | 8 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 10 |
| Brynhyfryd No.2. | 6 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 10 |
| Westernmoor. | 60 | 24 | 14 | 4 | 102 |
| | 88 | 32 | 16 | 4 | 104 |

The 18 houses at Regent Street (West), Gas Works site, and the 10 houses at Highfield Road, Brynhyfryd No.1. site, were completed and occupied during 1939.

It was hoped to have had them completed within the scheduled time, but progress was seriously delayed by continuous bad weather and resulted in the Council receiving a lower rate of subsidy than that applicable to houses ready for occupation on the 31st December, 1938.

On the 8th September,1939, the Ministry of Health issued Circular No. 1866, dealing with the postponement of work under the Housing Acts. Representations were made to the Ministry, by the Council, for permission to complete the building of the 10 houses at Brynhyfryd No. 2. Site, which were then in course of construction. The Ministry consented to the completion of six houses only, these being at the time almost ready for roofing. As a result of further representations to the Ministry and a visit of inspection of the houses at Briton Ferry, which were subject to Demolition and Closing Orders, consent was readily given to complete the remaining four houses, which completed the building programme of 10 houses at this site.

The position of the various building contracts at the end of the year, in connection with the Fourth Year's Scheme (1937) was as follows :

18 Houses at Regent Street (West) Gas Works Site, completed and occupied in 1939.
10 Houses at Highfield Road, Brynhyfryd No 1, Site, completed and occupied in 1939.
10 Houses at Giants Grave Road, Brynhyfryd No.2 Site, completed and occupied in 1940.
98 Houses and 4 Flats at Westernmoor, the building contract, in the National Interest, was suspended.

## SLUM CLEARANCE SCHEME, 1938.
## or
## Fifth Year's Programme.

| Areas. | Houses. | Families. | Persons. | New Houses required. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 6 | 46 | 57 | 250 | 57 |

## SUMMARY OF 1938 PROGRAMME.

| | Houses. | Families. | Persons. | Families of one person. | New Houses required. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Clearance Areas. | 46 | 57 | 250 | 6 | 57 |
| Individual Unfit Houses. | 16 | 15 | 56 | 1 | 15 |
| | 62 | 72 | 306 | 7 | 72 |

## RE-HOUSING REQUIREMENTS FOR 1938 PROGRAMME.

| Ward. | Flats. | Two Bedroom. | Three Bedroom. | Four Bedroom. | Total. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| North. | 6 | 32 | 15 | 12 | 65 |
| South. | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Briton Ferry. | 1 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 6 |
| | 7 | 37 | 16 | 12 | 72 |

The Council decided, having regard to the two houses which were not included in the 1937 Programme, to increase the 1938 Programme to 74 houses. It will also be necessary to make provision for the re-housing of the three families, now living in the three houses on which "Demolition Orders" were made in 1940.

## OVERCROWDING.

### Particulars of Overcrowding.

Table 1. Overcrowding Records.

| Ward. | 1936. Families. | 1936. Persons. | 1940. Families. | 1940. Persons. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| North. | 186 | | 103 | 614 |
| South. | 142 | | 58 | 325 |
| Briton Ferry. | 84 | | 32 | 186 |
| Council Houses. | 25 | | 13 | 94 |
| | 437 | 2,553 | 206 | 1219 |

Table 11. New cases during the year.

| Ward. | Families. | Persons. | Size of Families. 4. | 5. | 6. | 7. | 8. | 9. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| South ..... | 2 | 16 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |

Table 111. Reasons for New Cases of Overcrowding.

| | Families. |
|---|---|
| Tenant having taken in another family. | 1 |
| Tenant having sub-let to another family. | 1 |
| | 2 |

Table 1V. De-crowded Families.

1940.

| Ward. | Families. | Persons. | Net decrease. Families. | Net decrease. Persons | Size of Families 2. | 3. | 4. | 5. | 6. | 7. | 8. | 9 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| North. | 8 | 41 | 8 | 53 | . | . | . | 2 | 1 | 3 | . | . |
| South. | 3 | 25 | 1 | 5 | 2 | . | . | . | 1 | . | 1 | 1 |
| Briton Ferry. | 8 | 37 | 8 | 44 | . | . | . | 2 | 1 | 1 | . | . |
| Council Houses. | 2 | 12 | 2 | 15 | . | 2 | 2 | 1 | . | 1 | . | . |
| | 21 | 115 | 19 | 117 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 5 | 3 | 5 | 1 | 1 |

Table V. METHODS OF ABATING OVERCROWDING

| | North. | South. | Briton Ferry. | Council Houses. | Total. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Given Council Houses. | 1 | 2 | 5 | 0 | 8 |
| Moved to other houses in the Borough. | 1 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 3 |
| Left the Borough. | 1 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 4 |
| Reduction in Family. | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5 |
| Granted extra room in the same house. | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| | 8 | 3 | 8 | 2 | 21 |

Table VI. Position of Overcrowded Houses 31st Dec.,1940.

| Ward. | Houses Involved. | Persons in Houses. | Families Overcrowded. | Persons Involved. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| North. | 156 | 759 | 103 | 614 |
| South. | 96 | 449 | 58 | 325 |
| Briton Ferry. | 50 | 244 | 32 | 186 |
| Council Houses. | 17 | 105 | 13 | 94 |
| | 319 | 1555 | 206 | 1219 |

It will be observed that there has been , to some extent, a steady decrowding of families as compared with the figure obtained during the 1936 Survey. This does not give a true picture of present-day overcrowding in the Borough, it is much higher than this, due to the influx of persons, through obvious reasons, and causing temporary overcrowding.

## HOUSING STATISTICS,1940.

(1) Inspection of Dwellinghouses during the year :-

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 (a) | Total number of dwellinghouses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts). | 1110 |
| (b) | Number of Inspections made for the purpose. | 2672 |
| 2 (a) | Number of dwellinghouses (included under sub-head (1) above which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925. | Nil. |
| (b) | Number of inspections made for the purpose. | Nil. |
| 3. | Number of dwellinghouses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation. | Nil. |
| 4 | Number of dwellinghouses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation. | 407 |

(2) Remedy of defects during the year without the service of formal Notices :-

| | |
|---|---|
| Number of defective dwellinghouses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers. | 114 |

(3) Action under Statutory Powers during the year:-

| | |
|---|---|
| (a) Proceedings under Section 9,10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :- | Nil. |
| (b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts : | |
| 1. Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Notices were served requiring defects to be remedied. | 293 |
| 2. Number of dwellinghouses in which defects were remedied after service of formal Notices :- | |
| (a) By Owners. | 377 |
| (b) By Local Authority. | Nil. |
| (c) Proceedings under Section 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936. | Nil. |
| (d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936. | Nil. |

(4) Housing Act, 1936. Part IV. Overcrowding.

| | |
|---|---|
| (a) 1. Number of dwellinghouses overcrowded at the end of the year. | 206 |
| 2. Number of families dwelling therein | 319 |
| 3. Number of persons dwelling therein. | 1555 |
| (b) Number of new cases of Overcrowding reported during the year. | 2 |
| (c) 1. Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year. | 19 |
| 2. Number of persons concerned in such cases. | 117 |
| (d) Particulars of any cases in which dwellinghouses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding. | Nil. |

Eradication of Bed Bugs.

(1) Number of Council Houses found to be
1. infested. ..... 1.
2. disinfested. ..... 1.

Number of other houses found to be
1. infested. ..... 22.
2. disinfested. ..... 22.

(2) The procedure employed for freeing infested houses from bed bugs, both for Council and privately-owned houses, and the after-care methods adopted, were as reported in previous Annual Reports.

## GENERAL.

(1) Housing - Slum Clearance :

The Ministry's decision to suspend the building of houses for Slum Clearance displacement has added greatly to the difficult problems confronting the Sanitary Department. The suspension of the Westernmoor No 1 Scheme of 98 houses and 4 flats, compels the families of areas like The Latt and the various Courts distributed throughout the Borough, to remain in occupation of such slum houses, although these hovels were condemned as being unfit for human habitation in 1933. It is to be sincerely hoped that the day is not far distant, when it will be possible for the Council to renew its activities in improving the housing conditions of the working classes of the Borough. We shall be called upon to deal with another serious aspect of this question, after the War, as it is evident that most owners, to-day, are little concerned with the repair, painting and general maintenance of their properties. Of necessity, this must result in serious deterioration of house property, and in some cases to irreparable damage.

(2) Dilapidated Buildings :

This is another serious matter that will have to be considered when the opportunity presents itself. There are many such buildings, most of which are in a ruinous condition and are not only dangerous but are seriously detrimental to the amenities of the neighbourhood. In all probability, most of them were erected when Building Byelaws and Town Planning were undreamt of.

(3) Housing of T.B. Patients :

The Medical Officer of Health received several letters regarding the unsuitability of housing accommodation of Tuberculous patients. Of the 43 cases under consideration, 22 have been housed in Council houses, 4 have died at their homes and 17 remain to be considered. It is to be regretted that owing to the suspension of building programmes, the necessity of acquiring Council houses for sheltering the homeless from bombed areas and the infrequency of vacancies, there is little prospect of assisting, in the near future, cases of this nature.

(4) Flooding :

I have to report that serious flooding of dwelling-houses occurred at Nos. 1 - 12, Penrhiwtyn Street and Nos. 34 - 39, Gasworks Road. The flooding of these areas occurs on every occasion of heavy rain-fall. In the case of Penrhiwtyn Street, it has been suggested that the raising of the floor levels would obviate the trouble. The owners of the houses are not in agreement with such a suggestion and maintain that the house drains are properly constructed, have been approved by the Council, and that it is the responsibility of the Local Authority to properly sewer the area. The flooding at Gasworks Road is alleged to be caused by the overflowing of Millands Brook, and also to the fact that the houses referred to are below road level.

(5) Smoke Nuisances :

No action was taken by the department, during the year, in relation to the emission of smoke as would constitute smoke nuisances.

(6) Food Poisoning Cases :

During the year two incidents of food poisoning were reported. In the one, it was alleged that food poisoning was due to the consumption of potted bloater paste, at a canteen of a local work's Home Guard Unit. Both persons apparently fully recovered from their sickness, after being medically treated at their respective homes. In the other case, it was alleged that six persons were suffering from sickness as the result of consuming cooked tongue (tinned), of high-class brand, purchased at a local provision shop. It was ascertained that 72 lbs of such product had been sold, in slices over the counter, generally in quarter and half-pound quantities, and no other complaint was received. All affected persons completely recovered and a bacteriological examination of a portion of the tongue, recovered from one of the homes, gave negative results.

(7) Food And Drugs Act, 1938 :

The Act provides for the compulsory registration, with certain exceptions, of ice-cream shops, cooked meat shops, premises where sausages, preserved food, etc., are prepared or manufactured for sale. All such premises were duly inspected, and a summary of the provisions of the Act as to registration and the precautions to be taken against contamination of food were served upon the occupiers and a detailed report on the subject was submitted to the Council. 46 premises were found to be used for the purposes of preparing sausages and cooked meats for sale. 31 fried-fish shops were visited, 27 of which were considered suitable for registration. 50 premises were registered for the manufacture or sale of ice-cream.

In the early part of the year, it was anticipated that difficulty of administration would arise as to the purchase of quantities of rationed foodstuffs for analysis. A communication from the Ministry of Health clearly gave the procedure to be adopted and the difficulty was overcome.

I am pleased to report that it was possible to carry out the duties of a Food and Drugs Authority and that the number of samples taken equalled that for previous years.

The Food Executive Officer was supplied with statements regarding the prices charged, descriptions applied, and the Public Analyst's observations, regarding all samples submitted for analysis under the Act.

(8) War Activities :

The department has undertaken as its contribution to the War effort, the following duties :-

(a) Billeting, (b) Supervision of Air Raid Shelters, (c) Decontamination of Foodstuffs, (d) Various duties in conjunction with the Casualty Services, (e) War Damaged Houses - voluntary repair of same, (f) Re-housing of Homeless Persons and (g) Co-operation with the Services on Sanitary matters.

Reports on these matters were periodically sub mitted to the Council's A.R.P. Committee.

I desire to express my thanks to the members of the Town Council, the Medical Officer of Health and all the officials of the Corporation for their kind assistance during the year. I also wish to express my sincerest appreciation of the help, support and loyalty of Mr. E.V. John and Mr. R.T.Probert, Sanitary Inspectors, to the Student-Clerk in the Sanitary Department, Mr.T.G.Hopkins, who recently qualified as a Sanitary Inspector and is now serving in H.M.Forces, and to the Student-Sanitary Inspector Mr. Graham Francis for his assistance.

I am,

Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

Evan Thomas

Chief Sanitary Inspector.